

***Remarks***

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 27-52 are pending in the application, with claim 27 being the sole independent claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner give favorable consideration to the claims of the present application. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: 12/21/01

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**Version with markings to show changes made**

***In the Specification:***

Please substitute the following paragraph for the first full paragraph on page 3:

The material, when softened, is sufficiently malleable to conform to a molding impression provided by a human body part (e.g., hand, knee, foot) or other complex curvature object and to take a permanent set conforming to such curvature as the material [coils] cools.